



***April 16, 2021***

***Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District (LSLID) Members,***

We hope that this letter to our LID property owners finds you all healthy and safe. The MN DNR provided an official water elevation reading on April 14th of 1277.55 feet identifying that the lake remains high, at 2.45 feet above the ordinary high-water level. The Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District Board of Directors has continued to work extensively on the High-Water Outlet project and other LID tasks. We would like to provide an update on LID activities.

**Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the Lake Improvement District was held through an online conference tool on August 29, 2020. The minutes and documentation of the presentations from the Annual Meeting can be found on the LID Website. All four budget questions were approved in the August voting. The following were the results:

1. Non-Project 2021 budget of \$30,000; 84% approval
2. AIS Project 2021 budget of \$30,000; 88% approval
3. 2021 High-Water Outlet Project Budget for Pre-Construction of \$265,000; 77% approval
4. Establish Project to Construct High-Water Outlet at an estimated cost of \$3,350,000; 74% approval
5. Fred Comb, Rick Rosar, and Tim Rice were elected to the Board of Directors for two-year terms.

The LID Board has held several virtual Board meetings on September 29, 2020, December 29, 2020, and most recently on April 6, 2021. A calendar of regularly scheduled board meetings and minutes from meetings can be found on the LID website.

**2021 LID Budget Approved**

The LSLID Board of Directors attended the Morrison County Board meeting on September 22, 2020 to provide an update for the Lake Shamineau LID including: the 2020 LID Activities, the 2021 Work Plan, and an overview of the High-Water West Outlet project. A letter to Morrison County providing the update is available on the website. During the meeting, the County Board voted to approve the 2021 budget items.

**High-Water Outlet Project Update**

The High-Water Outlet Project Plan includes construction of a lake outlet structure and pumping station adjacent to the shoreline at the west end of the lake. From the pumping station the water will proceed westerly along the Aztec Road and continue along Highway 10 to the south side of County Road 203. Flowage will then continue through a recently cleaned drainage ditch that passes through US Highway 10 before flowing west into Todd County and eventually reaching Fish Trap Creek, which becomes part of Todd County Ditch 41 at the properties adjacent to the railroad bridge and continues to the Long Prairie River. This route was chosen to accommodate Todd County landowners. A map of the pumping site and water flowage route has been posted to the website.

Following are several project features:

- The project will include a maximum pumping rate of 10 cubic feet per second (cfs).
- The project will include pumping approximately 9 months per year.
- The project will lower the lake level down to the Ordinary High-Water Level (OHWL).
- The project includes a mechanical filter to prevent infiltration of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) per MN-DNR guidelines and approval.
- With the above pumping rate and time periods, pumping will primarily occur for 3 to 4 years.
- Future pumping, after the initial period, would only be needed if the lake level increases.
- As a permitting condition, an operating and maintenance plan will be developed to include guidelines to balance the need to lower the lake while minimizing the impact on downstream property owners.

In addition to determining the design and route for pumping, the following tasks have been completed:

- The LID entered into an agreement with the DNR effective November 9, 2020 for grant funds in the amount of \$52,000 that have been used to offset costs for Houston Engineering services.
- There have been many meetings and discussions with landowners west of Highway 10 along the flowage route to determine how their land will be affected and to accommodate their requests.
- We are pleased to announce that the landowners west of Highway 10 along the flowage route have all signed agreements to provide easements.
- A formal request for the petition to utilize Ditch 41 in Todd County has been submitted. The Todd County Board accepted the petition at their Board meeting on April 6, 2021. To gain approval of the petition, the process includes an Informational Meeting, as well as two formal public hearings which will be held in the following months.
- Bi-monthly meetings with the local DNR have been held to keep them informed of the project and to provide detailed project information, to seek input and to inquire on technical issues.
- Houston Engineering has completed many technical tasks including soil borings, wetland delineation, surveys, electrical design, drafting of an operations plan, hosting discussions with agencies, completing route and design details for landowners, and providing right of way descriptions. In addition, Houston has completed preliminary planning which includes the completion of 30% design documents for construction.

The next project steps include:

- Houston Engineering will be working to develop 60% level construction plans which will include designs of key project features including hydraulic features, AIS filtration, forcemain and outlet, drainage system and lake inlet. Houston will also utilize value engineering to explore cost savings and will provide an updated cost and documentation report.
- Completion of the petition process with Todd County for the use of Todd County Ditch 41.
- Seeking approval and permits from key agencies such as the DNR, Soil and Water agencies, Corp of Engineers, Morrison County, MN DOT, etc.
- Preparation and issuance of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW).
- Other tasks include updating the Operations Plan, continued outreach with landowners, agencies and public, and conducting a 429 Hearing to begin the bonding and financing process.
- Upon completion of all the above tasks, the project will be ready for the completion of the final detailed design plans, developing bid and contract documents, issuing bids, and selecting the contractor for construction.
- The final timeline for construction will depend on the timing of the approval of the Todd County petition and completion of agency permitting.
- The LID will continue to work with the DNR, legislators, and other agencies to determine if grant funding or other financing opportunities are available for the project.

### **Floodplain Mapping**

The LID has recently received information regarding floodplain mapping. Morrison County is taking the lead on the project and is working with FEMA and individual landowners as this process moves forward. If anyone has questions, please contact Amy Kowalzek at Morrison County. The LID recently received an update on the Floodplain mapping schedule with the following anticipated key dates:

- May 2021 – Preliminary new maps issued.
- July 2021 – Local officials meeting.
- Aug/Sept 2021 – Public Open house.
- Oct/Nov 2021 – 90-day appeal begins.
- Jan/Feb 2022 – 90-day appeal ends.
- May/June 2022 – “Letter of Final Determination” sent to communities (Letter noting maps will be effective in 6 month).
- Nov/Dec 2022 – New maps effective.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)**

The LID recently received notice that Morrison County will receive an AIS grant for 2021 in the amounts of: \$3,500 for Vegetation Surveys, \$1,500 for Sign Repair, \$10,000 for the Ambassador program, and \$1,843 for Eurasian Watermilfoil treatment. The LID also received notice from the State of MN that we will receive a 2021 AIS Control Grant for treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil in the amount of \$3,270.

With the increased funding, the Ambassador program will be expanded to have 4 ambassadors this year. There will be ambassadors at both the East and West landings on the weekends and holidays. The AIS surveys and treatments plans will be conducted as in previous years. In addition, sign repair will be made with the AIS signs at each landing.

### **LID Schedule**

Following is a schedule of LID meetings and other communication activities for the following next several months:

- In June, a letter will be mailed to all property owners to provide an update on LID activities.
- An informational meeting or public hearing on the high-water project will be held in spring or early summer.
- At the end of July or early August, a letter will be mailed to property owners advising them of the Annual Meeting.
- The Annual Meeting will be held on August 28<sup>th</sup>. It has not yet been determined if the meeting will be held virtually or in-person.

Thank you for your support. Be sure to visit the LSLID website for updates on meetings, treasurer reports, project status reports and other documents and information. Let us know if you have any questions or comments.

*Rick Rosar, Bob Koll, Fred Comb, Ardis Sandstrom, and Tim Rice*

**Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District Board of Directors**

*Cindy Kevern*

**Administrator**

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